(c) whether it is also a fact that traffic signals in various cities are closed because of the power crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) There is an overall shortage of power in the country and in all the States both in terms of energy and peaking power. The shortages vary from State to State on month to month, day to day and hour to hour basis depending upon the demand and supply of power. The energy and peaking shortage in the country during 2009-10 (April to June, 2009) was 9.8 % and 12.3 % respectively.

The main reasons for shortage of power in the country are:

(i) Growth in demand for power outstripping the growth in generation and capacity addition.

(ii) Low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector.

(iii) High Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses including theft of electricity.

(iv) Poor financial position of State Utilities rendering it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(v) Inadequate availability of gas, coal and nuclear fuel.

(c) and (d) The operation of traffic signals in various cities is under the purview of concerned State Government. Closing of traffic signals in various cities due to power crisis has not been reported to the Government.

Sanction of hydro-electricity projects

1765. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procedure for sanctioning of hydro-electricity projects across the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to make any uniform policy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As per Section 8 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is required for setting up of hydro electric schemes, depending on the limits of capital expenditure for such schemes as fixed by Central Government, from time to time, by notification.

As per Government notification dated 18.4.2006, the following limits of capital expenditure have been fixed for hydro electric schemes, requiring CEA concurrence:

(i) Rs.2500 crores, provided that -

a) the scheme is included in National Electricity Plan (NEP) as notified by CEA and conforms to the capacity and type.

b) the site for setting up the hydro generating station has been allocated through the transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by Central Government.

(ii) Rs.500 crores for any other scheme not covered by para (a) and (b) above.

After the concurrence accorded by CEA and clearance accorded by other authorities for different aspects like, environmental and forest aspects by Ministry of Environment and Forests, defence aspects by Ministry of Defence, etc., the developers obtain sanction from concerned authorities depending on their sector as given below:

(1) **Central Sector**

The Central Sector projects are sanctioned by the Government as per the guidelines of Ministry of Finance issued *vide* O.M. No. 1(3)/PF-112001 dated 15.11.2007.

(2) **State Sector**

The State Sector projects are supposed to be sanctioned by the concerned State Government as per their respective procedures.

(3) **Private Sector**

The Private Sector projects are supposed to be sanctioned by the concerned project developers.

(b) to (d) The Government has not felt any need to deviate from the current procedure.

Demand and supply of power

†1766. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a huge gap between demand and supply of power in more than half the number of States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan of Government to implement effectively the National Electricity Policy, providing electricity for all by 2012, and to curb corruption; and

(d) the steps Government is going to take to check transmission and distribution losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) There is an overall shortage of power in the country and in the States both in terms of energy and peaking power. The shortage varies from State to State on month to month, day to day and hour

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.